

MULTI-AWARD WINNING!

THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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SPORTS

Unbeaten streak in NWSL

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Making sense of the world

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

THE WEEK

Junior




2024

ELECTION PREVIEW

A special issue dedicated to a big moment in our democracy

★ ★ ★

INSIDE!

- ★ What kids think about the election
- ★ Exciting races to watch across the US
- ★ Steps you can take to get involved



This week's big news



Jason Reynolds



Nicola Dell



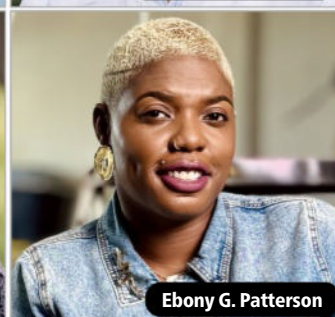
Johnny Gandelman



Alice Wong



Sterlin Harjo



Ebony G. Patterson

MAJOR DONORS
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has given away more than \$8.27 billion since 1978.

Changing the world



For a third year, the MacArthur Foundation is offering a \$100 million grant to tackle a major global issue through its 100&Change competition. Previous winners worked to alleviate homelessness and help children dealing with strife in the Middle East. The next winner will be announced in spring 2025.

MacArthur “genius” grants given

On October 1, the 2024 winners of the MacArthur Fellowships, prestigious annual awards also known as “genius grants,” were announced. The 22 recipients include a children’s book author, an astronomer, a violinist, a legal scholar, and a dancer and choreographer.

What are the fellowships?

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is an organization that funds creative solutions to urgent global challenges. It was established in 1970 by John (1897–1978), an insurance and business executive, and his wife, Catherine (1908–1981), who worked with him. In 1981, the foundation began awarding MacArthur Fellowships, which recognize people who have made important contributions in a variety of fields. The award comes with a grant of \$800,000, which the organization says is not a reward for past accomplishments but an investment in a person’s potential to create change. Fellows must be US citizens or residents, and elected or senior government officials are not eligible. Nominees are selected by experts in various fields, and winners are chosen by an independent selection committee. Winners are not told in advance that they are being considered, so

the fellowships come as a surprise. The foundation has awarded more than 1,100 fellowships in total.

Who are some of this year’s recipients?

Among the creative people named are Jason Reynolds, age 40, a writer of books for children and young adults that show “the rich inner lives of kids of color and ensure that they see themselves and their communities in literature,” according to the foundation. Sterlin Harjo, age 44, is a filmmaker who uses humor to inform viewers about the lives of Native Americans. Ebony G. Patterson, age 43, is a multimedia artist whose work explores race, class, and beauty, among other themes. Justin Vivian Bond, age 61, is an artist and performer of cabaret, a type of theater that originated in France. Johnny Gandelman, age 46, is a violinist, and Shamel Pitts, age 39, is a dancer and choreographer.

Who else was named?

Many scientists, scholars, and activists were also chosen, including Keivan G. Stassun, age 52, an astrophysicist and astronomer who focuses on creating STEM opportunities for underrepresented people, including Black students and people with autism. Dorothy Roberts, age 68, is a legal scholar and public policy researcher working to address racial inequality in social services. Martha Muñoz, age

39, is a biologist who studies why different species evolve (change very slowly over time) at different rates. Alice Wong, age 50, is a disability activist who focuses on increasing society’s understanding of what it means to have a disability. Nicola Dell, age 42, is a computer and information scientist developing technology that helps people who are often overlooked, like home healthcare workers.

How did people react?

Marlies Carruth, the director of the MacArthur Fellows program, said nominees have “a thirst to make a difference” and the winners’ work “highlights our shared humanity.” Winners find out they have been awarded the fellowship when they receive a phone call from the foundation. Jason Reynolds ignored multiple calls because he didn’t recognize the number. He picked up only because he wanted to tell the caller to leave him alone. “And then I answer and they tell me that it’s the MacArthur Foundation and that this award is being bestowed upon me,” Reynolds said. “Honored is an understatement,” he said on social media.

What will happen next?

The winners receive the grant money over five years and can spend it however they choose. Some said they plan to learn how other MacArthur Fellows have used their grants before deciding the best way to put the funds to work. “It does give you the freedom to dream a little bigger,” Muñoz said.



John and Catherine MacArthur



Mexico's leader makes history

Claudia Sheinbaum was inaugurated as Mexico's new president at a ceremony in the capital, Mexico City, on October 1. Sheinbaum, age 62, is the first woman and the first Jewish president in the nation's 200 years of independence. She was elected on June 2 for a six-year term.

Sheinbaum has a PhD (advanced degree) in energy engineering and was part of a team of climate scientists that received a Nobel Peace Prize. In 2018, she became the first woman to be elected mayor of Mexico City. As president, Sheinbaum plans to address issues including the economy and justice system, as well as immigration and the relationship between Mexico and the US.

World leaders attending the inauguration included US First Lady Jill Biden, President Miguel Díaz-Canel of Cuba, and President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil. In her speech, Sheinbaum paid tribute to "those who dreamed of a day" when gender would not determine a person's destiny. Later, she attended a ceremony with women who represented the 70 Indigenous groups of Mexico.



Claudia Sheinbaum



DID YOU KNOW?
The Chicxulub Crater in Mexico is about 111 miles across and was created by an asteroid that was more than 6 miles wide.

A rendering of an asteroid hitting Earth

Clue to dino extinction found

Scientists have known for many years that dinosaurs were killed off about 66 million years ago by an asteroid that struck Earth. Now they have found evidence that a second asteroid may have contributed to the mass extinction event.

A team led by Uisdean Nicholson, a geologist at Heriot-Watt University in the UK, studied a massive crater at the bottom of the ocean off the coast of Guinea, Africa. Called the Nadir Crater, it's 6 miles deep and 5 miles across.

The team used high-resolution 3D imaging to map its rim and other geology nearly 1,000 feet deep. They concluded that the crater was created by an asteroid that hit Earth at about 45,000 miles per hour. The collision triggered a tsunami at least 2,600 feet high and a magnitude 7 earthquake.

Nicholson and his colleagues compared the Nadir Crater to the Chicxulub Crater in Mexico, which was also created when an asteroid hit. That impact sent hot clouds of gas, dust, and debris into the atmosphere, blocking out the Sun, making temperatures drop, and causing floods and wildfires across the globe. More than 75% of the plants and animals on Earth died out—including all dinosaurs that were not birds.

Although the team cannot pinpoint the exact timing of the Nadir Crater, they can tell it was formed at about the same time as the Chicxulub Crater. This leads them to believe that there may have been several asteroid strikes during the same period, which may have contributed to the sudden loss of so many life forms on Earth.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

SQUASHING THE COMPETITION

A giant pumpkin named Hank the Tank won the National Pumpkin Weigh Off, earning first place at 2,453 pounds. Grown in a greenhouse in Oregon, Hank was 296 pounds shy of setting a new world record.



The winning gourd



The team and their teacher

A LONG WAY DOWN

Four high school students in Pennsylvania set a record for dropping an egg from the greatest height without breaking it. Their egg, protected with straws, a plastic bag, and other materials, survived an 83-foot drop. "We never imagined this idea would take us this far," one student said.

STAYING HOME

The governor of Massachusetts issued a special permit to let a beaver stay in the wildlife rescue center where she was raised and become an educational animal. Wildlife officials wanted Nibi, age 2, to be set free, but her keepers said the spunky "diva" would never survive in the wild. "It's an incredible moment," said a keeper.



Nibi the beaver



National news

DID YOU KNOW?

The last time members of the International Longshoremen's Association went on strike was nearly 50 years ago.

A container ship in the Port of Boston in Massachusetts



Unexpected job growth



The US government announced that employers added 254,000 jobs in September—much higher than predicted. Employment statistics in previous months had shown lower job numbers, suggesting that the economy was weakening. The new job numbers gave reassurance that the US economy was in stable condition.

Deal reached to stop dockworkers' strike

About 45,000 dockworkers who work at many ports along the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico agreed to a new pay deal and returned to work on October 3, ending a three-day strike (stopping working as a form of protest). Experts estimated that if the strike had lasted a week, it would have cost the US economy \$3.78 billion.

What happened?

An agreement was reached between the International Longshoremen's Association, a union that represents people who work at docks and ports, and the US Maritime Alliance, an organization of companies that operate ports and ships. Under the terms of the deal, dockworkers will receive a 62% pay increase over the next six years. This increase was less than the

Longshoremen had asked for but more than the Maritime Alliance had initially offered. Under the agreement, the two sides will have until January 15, 2025, to negotiate the other issues they are divided over. For example, union members want a ban on automation (use of robots), which they say could lead to fewer jobs for people.

Why was the deal significant?

About 50% of all containers on ships coming into the US travel through the affected ports, located from Massachusetts to Texas. That's about 1 million containers arriving each month, as well as more than 300,000 containers leaving the country. The strike could have led to shortages of many products, from food, furniture, and clothing to chemicals and car parts, as well as higher prices.

How did people react?

President Joe Biden, whose administration had worked with both sides to negotiate the deal, released a statement praising it. Union officials were pleased as well. Representatives of manufacturing and retail industries were relieved that the ability to make and sell goods would not be disrupted before the holiday season. Critics, however, said the pay increases would lead to higher operating costs for businesses.

What will happen next?

Work at the ports resumed immediately. Experts said it may take about 20 days to clear the backlog of ships that need unloading because of the strike. Meanwhile, both sides will continue negotiating their remaining differences.



WORD OF THE WEEK

ELECTION

The word "election" began in ancient Rome with the Latin word *electus*, the past tense of *eligere*, "to select." Broken down further, the meant "from" and *legere* meant "to choose." In an election, voters choose a candidate from a list. *Legere* also gave us other English words, including "select," meaning "to choose," and "legend," "a story chosen to be told."

VOTE

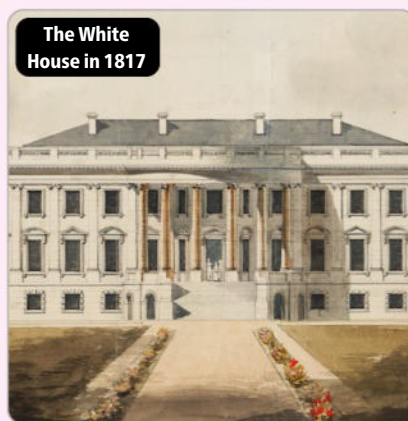
THE WEEK IN HISTORY

October 13, 1792

Cornerstone of White House is laid

On October 13, 1792, the first cornerstone of the White House was laid. It was the first public building to be erected in Washington, DC. James Hoban, an Irish immigrant, won a design competition to build the home, which was then known as the President's House. After eight years of construction, John Adams, the second US President, and his wife, Abigail, became the first inhabitants in 1800.

The White House in 1817





A sign outside the White House

Jimmy Carter's 100th birthday

Former President Jimmy Carter turned 100 on October 1, becoming the longest-living US president in history. His hometown of Plains, Georgia, hosted a celebration that included a military air show, which Carter made a public appearance to watch. He was the 39th US President, serving one term from 1977 to 1981. After leaving office, he dedicated his life to humanitarian work and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.



The justices

Supreme Court begins new term

The nine justices of the US Supreme Court (America's most powerful court of law) began their new nine-month term on October 7. It is the court's tradition to begin work on the first Monday of October after adjourning its previous term in the summer. This year, the justices are expected to hear cases that affect gun regulations, LGBTQ rights, and workplace discrimination, among others.



Tara Dower

Appalachian Trail record set

Tara Dower, age 31, has broken the speed record for completing the Appalachian Trail. She finished the nearly 2,200-mile route in 40 days, 18 hours, and 5 minutes, the fastest known time for any male or female. The previous record was 41 days. The trail runs from Maine to Georgia and usually takes about six months to complete. Dower raised about \$30,000 for the nonprofit Girls on the Run.



Caitlin Clark with her Rookie of the Year trophy

WOW!
Caitlin Clark, who attended college at the University of Iowa, is the all-time leading scorer in NCAA Division 1 basketball.

WNBA Rookie of the Year selected

Caitlin Clark has been named the 2024 WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) Rookie of the Year. The star player for the Indiana Fever received 66 out of 67 votes for the award, which is given to the league's best first-year player and voted on by members of the media. Angel Reese of the Chicago Sky received the other vote.

Clark, who was the number one overall pick in the 2024 WNBA draft, was at practice when she received a call from the WNBA commissioner, who told her she had won the award. She set a new league record for the most assists in a season, with 337, as well as a record for the most assists in a game, with 19 against the Dallas Wings.

She set WNBA records for the most points by a rookie in a season, with 769, and three-pointers made by a rookie, with 122. Her 122 three-pointers were the most of any player in the league this season. She was also the first rookie to score at least 30 points and make at least 10 assists in a game.

Along with teammate Aliyah Boston, who was the 2023 Rookie of the Year, Clark led the Fever to a 20–20 record, a seven-game improvement over the team's previous season. The Fever made its first appearance in the playoffs since 2016 and lost to the Connecticut Sun in the first round.

Throughout the season, fans were drawn to the Fever. The team led the WNBA in

attendance, and games featuring the Fever set new TV viewership records for the WNBA. The

Fever's playoff game was the most-watched WNBA playoff game since the 2000 Finals, according to ESPN.

Clark's jersey was also the best seller among WNBA player jerseys this season.

"I am incredibly honored to be named Rookie of the Year, but more

than that, I am grateful to everyone that supported me," said Clark, who thanked her teammates, family and friends, and the Fever organization. "I am so proud of what we accomplished and so excited for what the future holds."



Caitlin Clark in the playoff game against the Connecticut Sun

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Escaped goat runs half marathon, receives medal at the finish line" *mensjournal.com*





Around the world



A memorial
in Tel Aviv



Israel

Marking one year since tragic attack

On October 7, memorials marked the one-year anniversary of the deadliest attack in Israel's history, in which Hamas (a terrorist group based in Gaza) killed nearly 1,200 people and took about 250 people hostage. A moment of silence was held at 6:29 a.m., when the 2023 attack began. Ceremonies were held across the country and the world. The attack set off a war that is ongoing, and families of the remaining hostages continue to call for their return.



People leaving Haiti



Dominican Republic

Plan to return people back to Haiti

In an attempt to reduce the number of people coming to live in the Dominican Republic (DR) from the neighboring country of Haiti, the Dominican government has announced a plan to deport (send back) up to 10,000 Haitians a week. The two countries share an island, and many people have crossed the border in recent years because of violence and poverty in Haiti. An estimated 500,000 Haitians live in the DR.



Some of
the parrots



Hilario Ascasubi, Argentina

Parrots causing problems in town

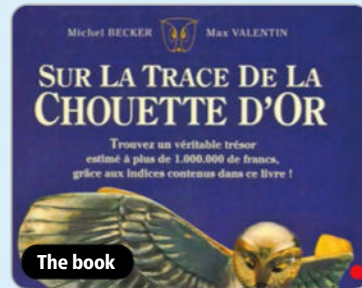
Thousands of parrots are causing chaos in an Argentinian town. According to experts, the colorful birds entered Hilario Ascasubi seeking food and shelter because of deforestation (cutting down large areas of trees) in the surrounding hills. Residents said that the birds screech constantly, poop everywhere, and chew on electricity cables, causing power outages in the town.



France

Treasure hunt solved

A 31-year treasure hunt ended when someone finally found the prize. The hunt was launched in a 1993 puzzle book called *On the Trail of the Golden Owl*. To find the prize, treasure hunters had to solve 12 riddles. Tens of thousands of people took part in the search, and the buried owl sculpture (a replica of the actual prize) has now been found.



The book



Sawré Muybu, Brazil

New rules for land

Brazil's government has agreed to demarcate Sawré Muybu, a territory in the state of Pará. This means it officially recognizes the territory, which gives it legal rights and protection against projects such as mining and tree cutting. Sawré Muybu is home to the Mundurucu people, who have spent 17 years campaigning for rights to the land. The next step is for the government to set Sawré Muybu's boundaries.



Mundurucu
activists

GETTY IMAGES (5); ON THE TRAIL OF THE GOLDEN OWL: ROGERIO ASSIS/GETTY IMAGES (2)

Around the world



A dig in Åsum



Åsum, Denmark Viking burial site discovered

Experts found a 1,100-year-old Viking burial site in Åsum containing 50 well-preserved skeletons. It is unusual for skeletons that are this old to be in such good condition, but high water levels and minerals in the soil stopped them from breaking down. The discovery will help historians learn more about how the Vikings lived.



Flooding in Nepal



Kathmandu Valley, Nepal Floods cause major damage

In Nepal, heavy rainfall since late September has led to flooding and landslides that have killed more than 240 people and destroyed roads and farmland. Experts said the situation was worsened because homes were built too close to the Bagmati River, which overflowed its banks. Nepal's army said it used rafts, helicopters, and zipline cables to rescue more than 4,000 people. Other countries and organizations promised to send aid.



A game at the museum



Kyoto, Japan Museum for video game fans

On October 2, the first official Nintendo Museum opened in Kyoto. The museum was built inside a former Nintendo factory. Visitors can learn about Nintendo's history, starting with its founding in 1889 as a company that sold playing cards. There are also areas where people can play some of the company's classic games, including Mario Kart, Donkey Kong, and The Legend of Zelda.



Kais Saied



Tunisia President stays in power

Kais Saied will continue as Tunisia's president after winning an election on October 6. Although Saied received more than 90% of the votes, the number of people who voted was low, at 28.8%. Critics say that since he became president in 2019, Saied has cracked down on people who oppose his leadership. Ayachi Zammel, one of the candidates who ran against him, was jailed.



Mauritius Regaining islands

After a historic agreement, the Chagos Islands, a British territory in the Indian Ocean, will be returned to Mauritius. During the 1960s and '70s, the UK forced out all 1,500 residents of these 60 small islands to create a military airbase. The UK-US joint base will continue to operate on the largest island, Diego Garcia, but once the treaty is signed, Mauritius will regain control of the rest of its former territory and islanders will be allowed to return.



Diego Garcia

Should kids be allowed to vote?

Some say young people should be able to cast a ballot in elections.

What you need to know

- Currently in the US, people have to be 18 by Election Day to vote.
- The voting age was 21 for most of US history. In 1971, the 26th Amendment to the US Constitution was passed, prohibiting states from making the voting age higher than 18.
- In January 2023, a bill was proposed in the US House of Representatives to lower the voting age to 16 across the country. It is currently pending.



America has a complicated history of democracy. Not everyone in the US, even over 18, has always had the right to vote. In the early days of our country, only white men who owned land were allowed to vote. Black people had to fight for the right to vote, and so did women. Now some people are saying it's time to extend voting rights to younger people too. They are advocating for the voting age to be lowered to 16 and say it will encourage people to get involved in our democracy at an earlier age. But some people feel that under 18 is simply too young. So what do you think? Do you think kids ages 16 and 17 should be allowed to vote?

Yes—young people have more at stake

People underestimate how informed kids are. With easier access to news, this generation is more knowledgeable than any before it. They also have more of a stake in issues that affect their future, like protecting the environment. Plus, studies show that people who vote at a young age are more likely to make voting a lifelong habit. When the city of Takoma Park, Maryland, lowered its voting age to 16 for local elections, 16- and 17-year-olds voted at twice the rate of people ages 18 and up. Younger people are clearly engaged in democracy. Why wouldn't we want to enhance that? Kids know what's going on and should have a vote.

No—kids aren't old enough to vote

Teenagers' brains aren't fully developed at 16, and their decisions can be impulsive. They also haven't had many life experiences that would help inform their choices. It's a mistake to assume they're able to make a decision as important as choosing our elected officials. Most kids under 18 are still legally considered minors and live with parents or guardians. Those adults can heavily influence who their teens vote for, which means those young people aren't really exercising their rights at all. And do we really want politicians advertising to children to try to win their vote? Let kids stay kids a little longer and vote at 18.

YES Three reasons why kids should be allowed to vote

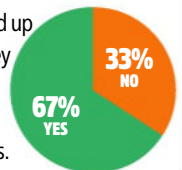
- 1 This generation of young people is well informed and can use their knowledge to decide which candidates to vote for.
- 2 Kids have a lot at stake and should have a say in who will shape their future.
- 3 Research shows that when people start voting at a young age, they are more likely to become lifelong voters.

NO Three reasons why kids should not be allowed to vote

- 1 Kids' brains aren't mature enough at 16 or 17 to make a decision that has consequences for all of society.
- 2 Children under 18 are still in the custody of adults, who could influence their vote.
- 3 Kids should get to be kids for as long as they can, without politicians advertising to them to try to win their votes.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if it's OK if students miss school to protest. Most of you said kids should be able to stand up for what they believe in, even during school hours.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think kids should be allowed to vote or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



People



Delivering the news

One of the journalists covering this year's elections is Lester Holt. He has been the anchor of *NBC Nightly News* since 2015, and in 2020 he launched *NBC Nightly News: Kids Edition*, a program designed to help young people understand what's happening in the world. (The show streams at 4 p.m. ET on NBCNews.com, NBC News NOW, and the NBC News YouTube channel.) He spoke with *The Week Junior* about elections and the importance of critical thinking.

Why do you think kids should take an interest in elections?

Although they can't vote yet, kids do live with the decisions adults make. It's important to understand the process, including how we elect our leaders and what we should expect from them. It's kids' country too.



What is the role of a journalist before an election?

Our role is to make sure we know as much about the candidates as possible, not only about their personal backgrounds but certainly their politics. There are also a lot of claims made back and forth in a campaign. As journalists, our job is to break through the noise and get to the heart of the matter.

What was the first election you covered as a journalist?

It was the 1980 Presidential race between Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter. I was a reporter working for a radio station in San Francisco. There was great controversy that night because the TV networks

announced that Reagan won, even though the West Coast hadn't finished voting yet. It changed the way we cover elections. Now we make sure we don't get ahead of the game and that the polls are closed before we make any projections.

How do you ensure that you're presenting the news objectively?

Fact-checking is at the center of what we do, whether we're covering an election or any other story. We have a team of people who are constantly reviewing what we're saying and how we're saying it. Our credibility hinges on making sure we get stories right.

You have to stay neutral in your job. Does that help you

have conversations with people you disagree with?

The ability to stay neutral is not a challenge for me. I like a good, spirited discussion. I enjoy hearing smart arguments, so it comes naturally to me to listen to different sides in a debate and try to learn from them.

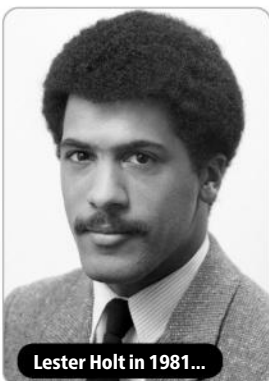
What's your best advice for kids who are following the election?

This is a good opportunity for kids to work with a parent or teacher to practice critical-thinking skills—asking tough questions, doing research, going on the websites of the candidates and learning about their positions. And don't just accept what people tell you or what you read on social media. Do some of the homework yourself. I think you'll find it exciting and gratifying.



Lester Holt on the set of *NBC Nightly News*

FUN FACT
During high school, Lester Holt worked as a DJ for a country radio station.



Lester Holt in 1981...



covering the election in 2008...



and moderating a debate in 2019.



Animals and the environment

**WORK HARD,
PLAY HARD**

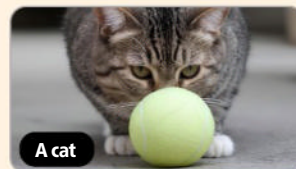
A 2022 study found that the smartest dogs also tend to be the most playful.



Some pups really know their toys.

Cats like to play fetch

It's well known that dogs enjoy playing fetch, but did you know some cats do too? Researchers found that 40.9% of cats bring back objects that are thrown. Siamese and Burmese cats are the breeds most likely to play the game, which may help them bond with humans and practice hunting skills.



A cat

Dogs remember toys years later

Some dogs have so many toys that it can be difficult for their owners to keep track of them, especially the well-loved ones that get used—and chewed—the most. So it might surprise you to know that, according to new research, some of our four-legged friends have the ability to remember the names of their toys, even those they haven't seen for a long time.

The research involved five border collies, which are considered to be one of the world's smartest dog breeds. Two years earlier, these five dogs had been selected for a study based on their ability to recognize the names of their toys.

The dogs were originally taught the names of 12 new toys. After a month, researchers from Eötvös Loránd University in Hungary tested the dogs to see if they could remember the names (they could).

The owners then put the toys away for two years.

For the new study, each owner took the toys out of hiding and put them on the floor alongside a collection of other toys. The researchers watched with cameras while the owners said the names of the previously hidden toys and asked the dogs to fetch them.

On average, the dogs chose the correct toy 44% of the time. Some of the dogs had a

success rate of up to 60%. If the dogs had been totally unable to recognize the names of their toys, researchers would have expected them to make the correct choices 20.4% of the time—purely by chance.

The most successful dogs were able to remember as many as nine of the old toys. Lead researcher Shany Dror told *The Guardian* newspaper that the study showed that the dogs were storing the names of their toys in their long-term memory.

The research team said that while some dogs can learn the names of objects, it still isn't clear why others cannot. Dror said the dogs that could learn the names often had owners who spent a lot of time with them. "The more you invest in your dog, the more you will get back from the relationship," she said.



Playtime can help a dog learn.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Buffalo National River, Arkansas

The Buffalo National River in Arkansas was designated America's first national river in 1972. It flows freely for 135 miles through the Ozark Mountains and is one of only a few rivers in the contiguous US (the 48 connected states) that does not have a dam (barrier that blocks water flow). Visitors can paddle the river or hike in the nearly 36,000 acres of wilderness surrounding it, where they might spot the only herd of wild elk in Arkansas. More than 300 species of aquatic life, including freshwater mussels, crayfish, and mudpuppy salamanders, live in the river.



An elk calf



LONG TRIP

A bar-tailed godwit broke the record for a nonstop migration by a bird when it flew 8,425 miles in 11 days.



Ibises fly while people cheer from an aircraft.

Humans teach birds to migrate

The northern bald ibis used to be common in some parts of Europe, but hunting and habitat loss forced the birds out for more than 300 years. Breeding projects in zoos have now brought them back—but after being born in captivity, the ibises didn't know how to migrate (travel to another location) in order to survive the winter. Older birds usually show younger ones where to go, so scientists decided to teach them the route.

Starting when the birds are a few days old, human "foster parents" take care of

them and gain their trust. When it's time to migrate, the "parent" flies in an aircraft in front of the birds, waving and shouting encouragement. The journey can take up to 50 days. Once they arrive, the birds become fully independent.

From August to September, one of these groups flew from Austria to Spain. This was the 17th group to make the journey. Many past groups have taught their chicks to follow the same route they learned from humans, passing down their knowledge to future generations.

Animal of the week

Texas horned lizard



At San Antonio Zoo in Texas, 71 Texas horned lizards have recently hatched. The tiny, spiky creatures have been playing in sand and munching on insects. The plan is to eventually release the lizards into the wild.

- **LIFE SPAN:** About 5 years
- **HABITAT:** Sandy parts of Mexico and the US
- **SIZE:** About 2 to 5 inches
- **DIET:** Mainly ants, sometimes other insects
- **FUN FACT:** To scare predators away, they can squirt blood from their eyes—as far as 5 feet!



Good week / Bad week



Whales

Some experts are saying that the International Whaling Commission, a group formed in 1946 to deal with global threats to whales, is no longer needed. The group's former leader said nearly all whaling has stopped and populations have grown.



Giant tortoises

Plans to build a luxury resort in the Seychelles threaten the habitat of the world's largest population of giant tortoises, conservationists say. About 150,000 giant tortoises live on the islands that make up the small African nation.



"How do I show my goat that I love her?"

Jace, 12, Arizona

Eli Strull

Curator of education and guest experience, WNC Nature Center

Goats will sometimes seek touch. Like us, they are all individuals. If a goat leans in when touched or presents a certain part of its body, that could indicate its preferences. For strengthening relationship bonds, back rubs and treats can help. Be sure to follow your veterinarian's recommendations.



Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the WNC Nature Center at wildwnc.org.



FUN FACT

The Mauritius national soccer team, which was founded in 1952, is nicknamed the Dodos.

A rendering of dodo birds in a forest

Rethinking an extinct bird

The dodo is one of the most famous birds ever to have lived and also one of the most mysterious. Considered the first animal to die out due to human actions, it has been portrayed as clumsy, slow, and not very smart. A new study is challenging this image, however.

The dodo was a flightless bird with a large, hooked beak that lived on Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean. Adult dodos were up to about 3 feet tall and weighed up to 51 pounds, making them larger than a modern turkey. They likely ate fruits, nuts, and seeds from the forest floor and swallowed stones to break up food in their bodies, which some modern birds do as well.

Few dodo fossils or samples of soft tissue have been found, which means scientists haven't been able to learn much else about them. To address that, a research team looked through 400 years of writing and scientific collections on the dodo. They concluded that the animal was probably not such a slow, clumsy bird after all. Written descriptions of live dodos suggested that the birds actually moved quickly.



The island of Mauritius

The team also re-examined dodo fossils and remains and concluded that the bird had powerful tendons (cords of tissue that connect muscles to bones) in its toes—just like modern birds that climb and run. This provided further evidence that the dodo was an active, speedy bird. “The birds were fast, agile, and, before being wiped out, had been doing their thing and doing it incredibly well for about 12 million years,” said Neil Gostling, an author of the recent study.

Scientists think dodos went extinct in the 1600s when Dutch sailors in Mauritius began hunting them. Dodos didn't have predators on the island before that, so they weren't afraid of humans and were easy to catch. This contributed to the idea that the birds were slow and not smart.

However, scientists also know that sailors brought cats, dogs, pigs, and rats, which ate dodos' chicks and trampled their habitat, helping to kill them off.

The research team's work is just the beginning of a larger project aimed at finding out more about the ancient creature. “The mystery of the dodo bird is about to be cracked wide open,” said Markus Heller, one of the study's authors.

Such a silly bird



The dodo in *Alice in Wonderland*

So little was once known about dodos that, before scientists proved they actually existed, they were considered mythical creatures. Early depictions of the animal, including an appearance in Lewis Carroll's novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* in 1865, often made it look silly. In 1941, a humor writer named Will Cuppy wrote of the dodo, “You can't look like that and survive. Or can you?”

Even the dodo's name may come from negative beliefs about it. One theory is that sailors from Portugal called it by the Portuguese word *doudo*, which means “fool” or “crazy.” Another possibility is that sailors from the Netherlands took note of the bird's size and called it *dodaersen* (“fat behind” in Dutch).



Meditation changes brain, eases pain

Mindfulness meditation is the practice of calming your mind and reducing negative thoughts. It has been used to treat pain in many cultures for centuries, but scientists thought it only worked because of the placebo effect (when a person feels better from a fake medical treatment because they believe it's real). A new study has found, however, that the practice actually affects the brain and reduces pain.

In the study, scientists from the University of California San Diego divided 115 participants into four groups. The groups were given different pain reduction methods: mindfulness meditation, fake meditation, a placebo (substance with no actual medicine), and an audiobook. The researchers

applied a painful but harmless heat sensation to the back of the participants' legs and scanned their brains before and after their assigned pain relief methods.

The study's results showed that mindfulness meditation was the most effective method for reducing pain. It

also changed a pattern of brain activity that is associated with pain, which the fake meditation and placebo did not. This

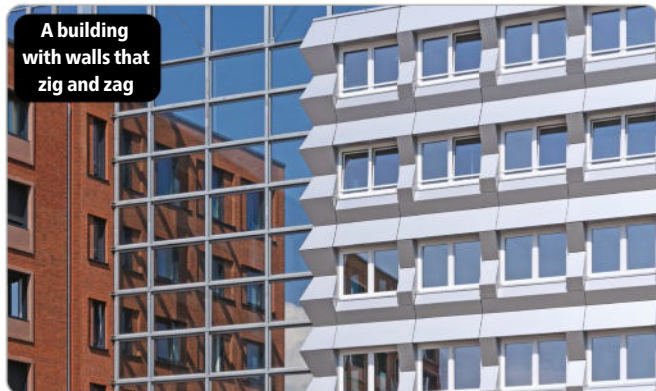
indicated that mindfulness meditation can be used "as a direct intervention for chronic pain," said Fadel Zeidan, an author of the study.

The findings add to the evidence that mindfulness meditation has major benefits. Previous research has found that it is effective at reducing feelings of stress, anxiety, and depression.

LONG TRADITION
Buddhist monks have been practicing mindfulness meditation for more than 2,600 years.



Mindfulness meditation
involves slowing down
your thoughts.



A building
with walls that
zig and zag

Zigzag walls keep buildings cooler

Buildings use up to 40% of the world's energy and produce more than a third of its carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas that traps heat in Earth's atmosphere). Much of this energy use is from air conditioning. Now a team from Columbia University in New York City has found that outdoor walls built in a zigzag pattern can keep buildings cooler without any electricity.

The researchers used radiative cooling, which redirects heat from

the Sun and prevents objects from absorbing it in the first place. An example of radiative cooling is painting roofs white to reflect heat.

Radiative cooling is trickier with walls, which absorb heat from the Sun above and the ground below. The zigzag walls have some sections that face up while others face down. The parts that face up release heat, while the parts that face down absorb less heat. The zigzag walls stayed up to 5.4° F cooler than flat walls.



A device that turns phones into cameras



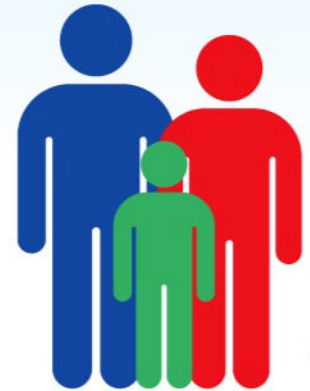
The Snappy

Smartphones come with advanced cameras that take excellent photos, but they're not as easy to hold and operate as a traditional camera. To solve that problem, a new device called the Snappy provides an adjustable holder for different-size phones and easy functionality.

The Snappy's rubberized grip has controls on the front and back that can change the camera's orientation, switch it from photo to video, and zoom in and out. Pushing a button on top of the grip snaps images. The device also includes a ring light that's controlled with a tap.

Your votes are in!

At *The Week Junior*, we know children have strong views about the upcoming election and the issues facing America. So we worked with YouGov, a company that conducts polls, to survey 799 children, ages 8 to 14, across the US to gauge their opinions. Kids' belief in their own power came through loud and clear: 89% said they believe they should have a say on issues that affect them, 88% said they wish adults listened more to kids, and 76% believe their actions can make a difference in the world now. Kids also said they care most about making daily life more affordable, protecting people's rights, and ensuring that everyone has healthcare and a good education. Here's what else young people had to say.



What is the #1 quality you want to see in the next President?

More than anything else, you're looking for a President who tells the truth.

30% said...
Honest
18% said...
Intelligent
11% said...
Fair
10% said...
Hardworking



What are the most important duties of the next President?

The President makes big decisions that affect everyone. You would put these priorities at the top of their to-do list.

- 1 Address inflation and reduce the cost of goods 
- 2 Protect the rights of people of different races, genders, and backgrounds 
- 3 Make sure everyone has access to healthcare 
- 4 Make sure everyone can have a good education 
- 5 Solve food insecurity so everyone has enough to eat 
- 6 Protect air, water, and wildlife and reduce climate change 

93%

of you think the outcome of this election will affect your family's daily life

85%

plan to register to vote as soon as you turn 18

79%

know who your parents support or are planning to vote for

78%

plan to participate in activities related to this year's Presidential election

72%

said it's important for you to see a female President in your lifetime

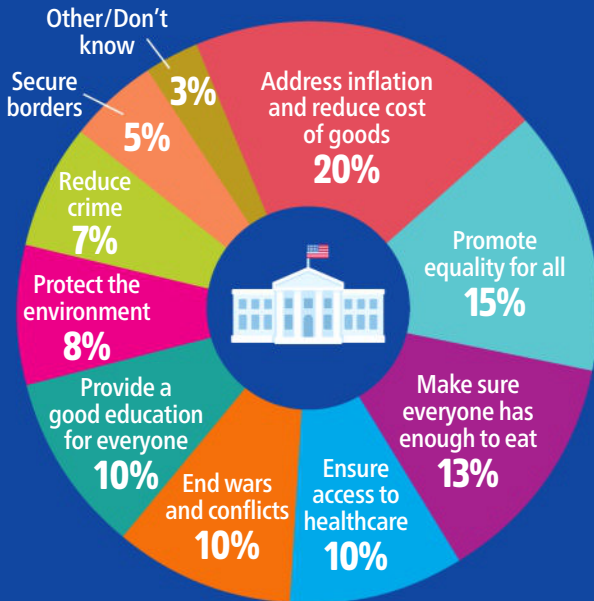
67%

talk about who the next President will be at least once a week

What kids think

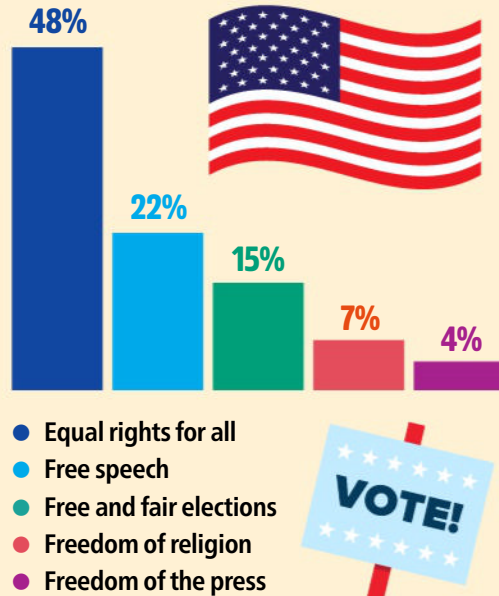
What is the first thing you would do if YOU were elected President?

Being President comes with a lot of responsibilities. The first thing you would focus on is bringing down the cost of living in the US.



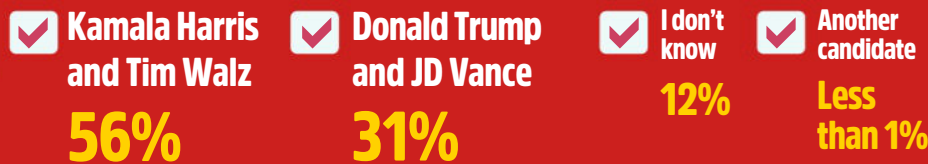
What do you value the most in a democracy?

These are the American ideals and rights you think have the greatest importance.



Who would you vote for on Election Day if you could?

Vice President Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, the governor of Minnesota, are the Democratic nominees for President and Vice President. Former President Donald Trump and JD Vance, a US senator from Ohio, are the Republican nominees. Here's how you would vote on November 5.



If you could give advice to the winner of the Presidential election, what would you say?

"Love, protect, and educate children."

"Lead by example and get people from both parties to work together on important issues."

"Take meaningful action on climate change."

"Please be a President for all Americans."

"Unite the nation."

"Do what's right and not what's easy."

"Be nice to everybody, even if they disagree with you."

"Try to make the world a better place."



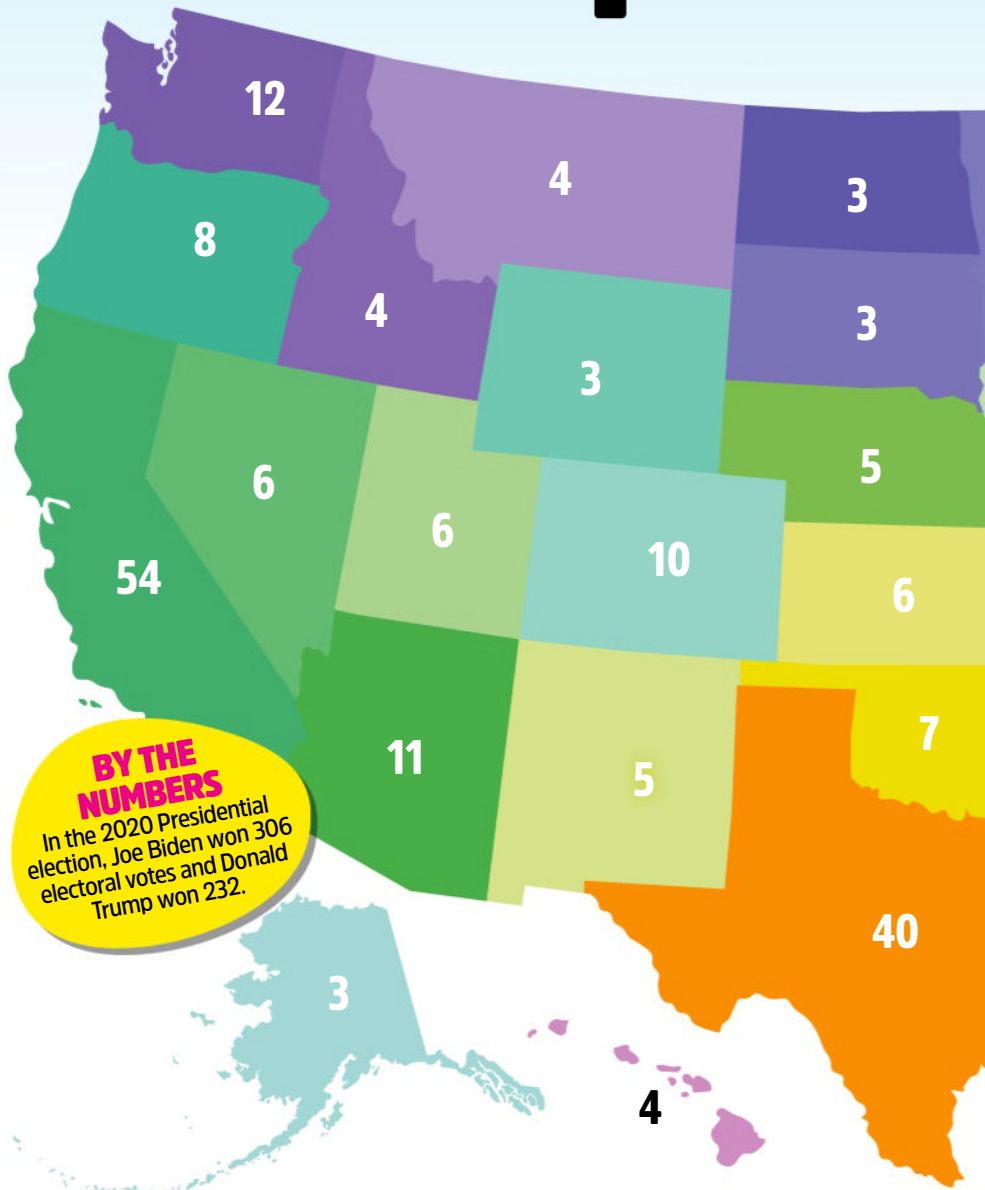
How America picks

On November 5, Americans will go to the polls to choose the next US President. Many will already have mailed in their ballots. But the process isn't as simple as checking off the candidate they want to win. Voters pick a President by name on the ballot, but they're not actually choosing that person—they're voting for members of the Electoral College.



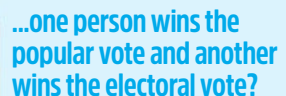
Who are the electors?

Electors are chosen before each Presidential election. Political parties in each state nominate them. They can be citizens, state leaders or lawmakers, or even people who make big donations to a candidate's campaign. The electors pledge to vote for their party's candidate.



BY THE NUMBERS
In the 2020 Presidential election, Joe Biden won 306 electoral votes and Donald Trump won 232.

The Electoral College can sometimes create an unclear outcome in an election, especially because there is an even number of electors (538).



The winner of the electoral vote is President. This happened in 1824, 1876, 1888, 2000, and 2016. In 2016, Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes, but Donald Trump won the electoral vote 304–227.



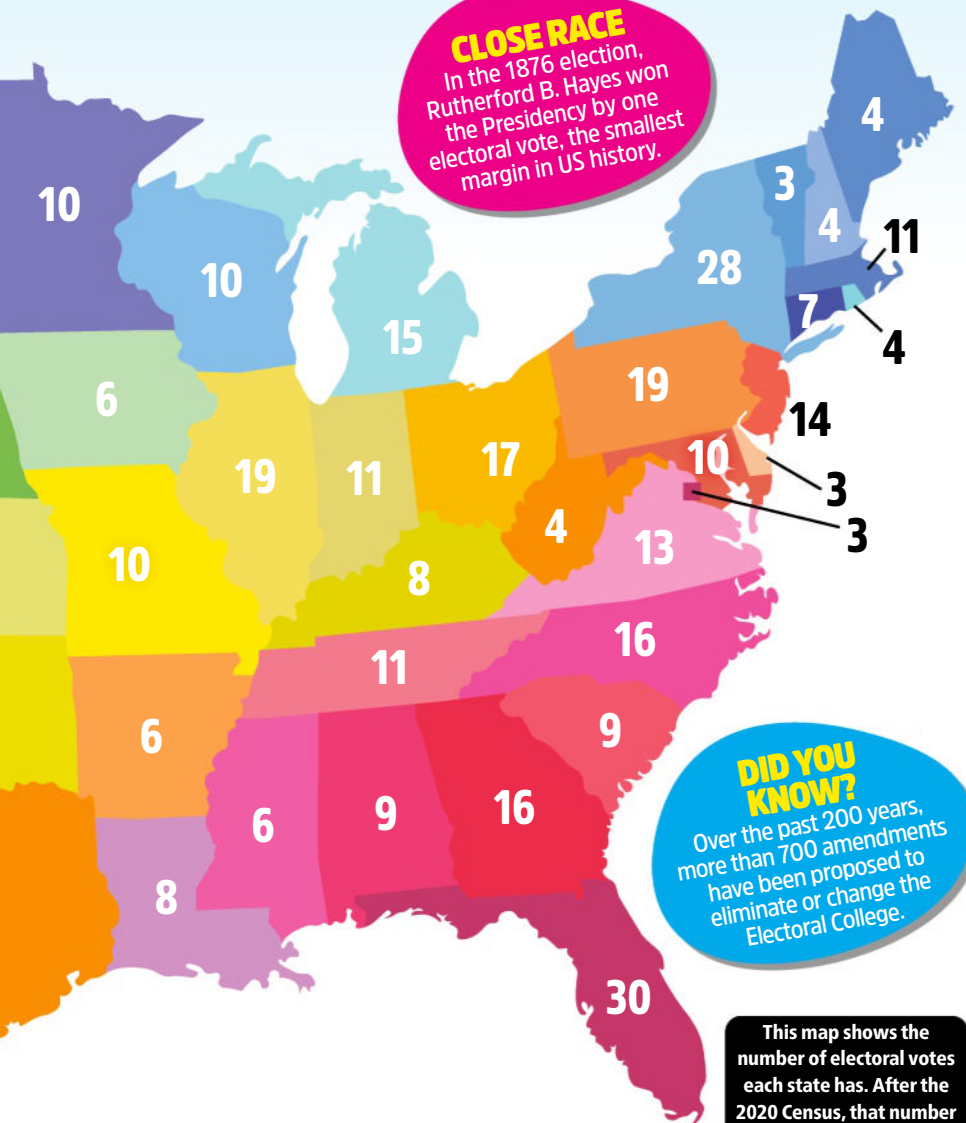


The Electoral College

its President

CLOSE RACE

In the 1876 election, Rutherford B. Hayes won the Presidency by one electoral vote, the smallest margin in US history.



DID YOU KNOW?

Over the past 200 years, more than 700 amendments have been proposed to eliminate or change the Electoral College.

This map shows the number of electoral votes each state has. After the 2020 Census, that number changed in 13 states.



Electoral votes get counted in Congress.

How does the Electoral College work?

In 48 states and the District of Columbia, the candidate who wins the state's popular vote receives all its electoral votes. (Maine and Nebraska divide up the votes by district.) In December, electors meet in their state capital to officially vote for the winner in their state. The US Congress meets to count those votes in January, and the new President is inaugurated (sworn in) after that.

How did the Electoral College come about?

In 1787, the men drafting the Constitution wanted to make sure no person or group had too much power. Some thought people should vote directly for the President, while others wanted Congress to decide. Another option was voting based on state population. But slavery existed then, and some people did not think slaves should be included in the population count. Some states wanted to count them, and others didn't. Finally the states agreed to count three out of every five slaves. This compromise formed the basis of the Electoral College system.

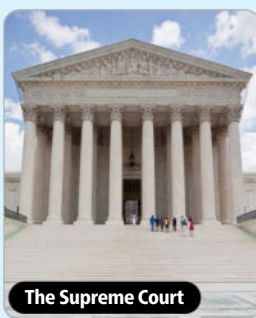


Is the Electoral College fair?

Not everyone thinks so. In a 2024 survey, 63% of Americans said the popular vote should replace the electoral vote. They say voters choose a person for the top job and the candidate with the most votes should win. In addition, people who vote for a candidate who doesn't receive any of their state's electoral votes can feel that their vote didn't count. Others say the system favors the two major parties (Republicans and Democrats) and prevents candidates from a third party (like Independents) from reaching 270 electoral votes.

...there's a tie?

If the electoral votes are split evenly, Congress decides the winner. If the popular vote is close in a state, candidates can ask for a recount there. In the 2000 race between Texas Governor George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore, this happened in Florida. Bush won the election.



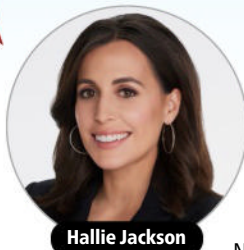
The Supreme Court

...electors change parties?

In 2016, seven electors voted for candidates in a different party. These "faithless electors" didn't change the outcome of the election. But in July 2020, the US Supreme Court (the highest court in the country) decided that states can require electors to stick to their pledged candidate.



7 races to watch



Hallie Jackson

Besides voting to select the next US President on Election Day, people will also cast ballots for candidates running for other important positions at the national, state, and local levels. "The Presidential election gets lots of attention—and rightfully so," NBC News anchor and senior Washington correspondent Hallie Jackson told *The Week Junior*. "But the races taking place in the US Congress and in each state can also affect the daily lives of Americans." *The Week Junior* asked Jackson to comment on seven interesting races across the country.



Democrat



Republican

Two people are elected to the US Senate (one half of Congress) by voters in

Montana



VS.



Jon Tester is the incumbent (person who currently holds the position). He has held the office since 2007.



Tim Sheehy is the challenger. He is a business owner and former Navy SEAL.

Why this race is significant: "Tester, a Democrat, is well liked in Montana and has been able to hold onto his office for many years, even though voters in this state mostly support Republican candidates," said Jackson. Former President Donald Trump won the state twice, so Republicans are hoping that could help Sheehy defeat Tester. Montana's other US senator is Republican Steve Daines, who is up for re-election in 2026.

US House of Representatives

The US House of Representatives (one half of Congress) is made up of 435 members, each from a different area of a state, called a district. Terms are for two years, and all 435 seats are up for election this year. Members can run for re-election.

New York
District 17



VS.



Mondaire Jones is the challenger. However, he was elected to represent this district in 2020, serving a two-year term.



Mike Lawler is the incumbent. He won the seat in 2022 and previously served in the New York State Assembly.

Why this race is significant: This district strongly supported Joe Biden for President in 2020, but then Lawler narrowly won the district's House seat in 2022. "This will probably be one of the most watched House races in the country," Jackson said. Experts are saying it could go either way.

Washington
District 3



VS.



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez is the incumbent, and she narrowly defeated Joe Kent in 2022. She owned a small business before running for office.



Joe Kent is the challenger. He hopes to defeat Marie Gluesenkamp Perez after losing to her in 2022. He is a former member of the US military.

Why this race is significant: Gluesenkamp Perez won this district by less than 1% in 2022. It's also a district that former President Donald Trump won in 2020. Election experts consider this race to be extremely tight and difficult to call.

State spotlight

US Senate

each state. Senators serve six-year terms and can run for re-election. Every two years, about one third of the Senate's seats are up for election.

Nevada



VS.



Jacky Rosen is the incumbent and the only Jewish woman in the Senate.



Sam Brown is the challenger. He is a former US Army officer.

Why this race is significant: "When it comes to Presidential elections, Nevada is a bellwether state, meaning it can reflect national election trends," Jackson said. For example, in 10 of the past 12 Presidential elections, the candidate who won Nevada became President. Rosen is trying to show voters that she is a bipartisan leader, while Brown hopes his military experience convinces voters to give him a shot, said Jackson. Nevada's other US senator is Catherine Cortez Masto, a Democrat, who is up for re-election in 2028.

Texas



VS.



Colin Allred is the challenger. He has served Texas in the House of Representatives since 2019.



Ted Cruz is the incumbent. He has represented Texas in the US Senate since 2013.

Why this race is significant: As the population of Texas grows and becomes more diverse, some political observers think the state could shift from reliably supporting Republican candidates to voting more Democrats into office. However, Cruz has fended off strong Democratic challengers in previous elections. The state's other US senator is Republican John Cornyn, who will be up for re-election in 2026.

Governor

A governor is the top leader of a state. States have different rules on how long a governor's term lasts and how many terms a governor can serve. This year, 11 states are holding races for governor.

New Hampshire



VS.



Joyce Craig was the first female mayor of Manchester, the state's largest city, from 2018 to 2024.



Kelly Ayotte was New Hampshire's first female attorney general. She served the state in the US Senate.

Why this race is significant: New Hampshire's current governor, Republican Chris Sununu, decided not to run for re-election this year, opening up the race to two newcomers. Like Nevada, New Hampshire is a bellwether state that can reflect broader national voting trends. The candidate New Hampshire voters choose for their governor could reveal which party is stronger in that state.

Indiana



VS.



Jennifer McCormick has led Indiana's public schools. She was a Republican for many years before changing parties.



Mike Braun is one of the two politicians who represent Indiana in the US Senate and was previously a state lawmaker.

Why this race is significant: The current governor of Indiana, Republican Eric Holcomb, can't run for re-election due to term limits. Indiana has not had a Democratic governor in nearly 20 years. But some recent polls have indicated that the race between McCormick and Braun is tight and that McCormick has a chance of winning.



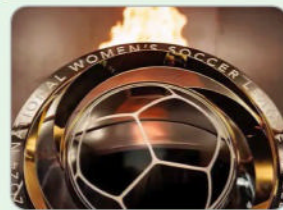
LIVING LEGEND

In 1998, April Heinrichs became the first woman inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame.



The Orlando Pride with the NWSL Shield

Award redesign



The 24-karat gold vermeil and sterling silver NWSL Shield was created by the jeweler Tiffany & Co. and has a new design this year. There is a handle on the back of the shield portion of the trophy, which can be detached from the base and held like a real warrior's shield.

Orlando Pride clinch NWSL Shield

On October 6, the top two teams in the NWSL (National Women's Soccer League), the Orlando Pride and the Washington Spirit, faced off in a match with immense implications for the Pride. They had not been beaten in 22 straight games, and they kept the streak going with a 2–0 win over the Spirit. It is the longest unbeaten streak in NWSL history, and no team in the league has ever gone unbeaten for an entire regular season.

In the NWSL, teams earn three points for a win and one point for a tie. With the win over the Spirit, the Pride improved their record to 17 wins and 6 draws (ties), giving them 57 points for the season. Although the regular season

doesn't end until November 3, no other team will be able to earn more points than the Pride. As a result, they clinched their first-ever NWSL Shield, an award given each season to the team that compiles the most points.



Marta (in purple)

In the game against the Spirit, which was played at Inter&Co Stadium in Orlando, Florida, both defenses were strong, and few scoring chances were generated in the first half. Early in the second, Orlando's Barbra Banda drew a foul in the penalty box, setting up a penalty kick for her team. Marta, who goes by one name and is one of the greatest soccer players of all time, stepped up to take the penalty. Despite a slight touch from the opposing goalkeeper, her shot

reached the back of the net, giving the Pride a 1–0 lead. The second goal was an own goal by the Washington Spirit's Tara McKeown.

The Pride's success this season has been unexpected. The team had qualified for the playoffs once in the past seven seasons. Now they will be the top-seeded (ranked) team in the postseason as they seek their first NWSL title.

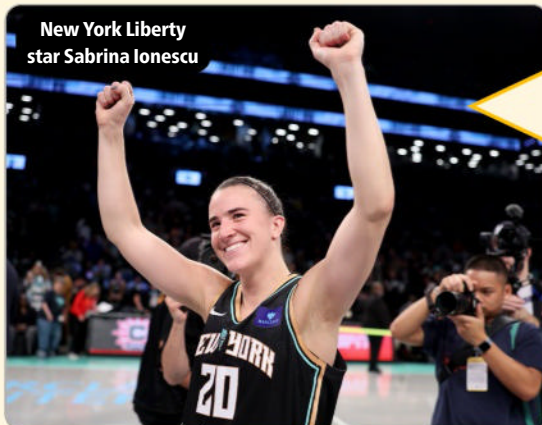
Eight of the league's 14 teams qualify for the playoffs, and when *The Week Junior* went to press, the Spirit, NJ/NY Gotham FC, the Kansas City Current, and the North Carolina Courage had secured spots. The Courage earned theirs with a 2–1 win over San Diego Wave FC on October 5. Teams in contention for the final three playoff spots include the Chicago Red Stars, the Portland Thorns, Bay FC, and Racing Louisville FC.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

On October 5, four top-ranked teams were upset by unranked opponents. In one game, Vanderbilt University beat the University of Alabama, which was the number one team in the country, 40–35. It was Vanderbilt's first-ever win over a top-five team. In a rematch of last season's national championship game, the University of Washington beat the 10th-ranked University of Michigan, 27–17.

New York Liberty star Sabrina Ionescu



BASKETBALL

The New York Liberty defeated the Las Vegas Aces, the two-time defending WNBA champions, 76–62, on October 6 to advance to the WNBA Finals.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

On October 2, Inter Miami beat the Columbus Crew, 3–2, to win the MLS Supporter's Shield, a trophy given to the best team in the regular season.

This is the 46th career trophy for Miami star Lionel Messi, who scored two goals in the win.


GAME ON

The UKFL, a pro American football league in the UK, is launching in 2025.



The New York Jets and Minnesota Vikings

Exciting action in NFL games

Through Week 5 of the NFL (National Football League) season, only one team in the AFC (American Football Conference) and one team in the NFC (National Football Conference) remained undefeated. In the AFC, the Kansas City Chiefs have so far been unstoppable in their quest to win a third straight Super Bowl, while the Minnesota Vikings are leading the NFC.

On October 7, the Chiefs hosted the New Orleans Saints and beat them, 26–13. It was the first time all season they won by more than seven points. The Chiefs had the ball for nearly 40 of the game's 60 minutes, and their running back Kareem Hunt rushed for 102 yards and a touchdown, while wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster caught seven passes for 130 yards. Kicker Harrison Butker made four field goals in

the win. Kansas City's next game will be against the San Francisco 49ers on October 20. It will be a rematch of last season's Super Bowl.

On October 6, the Vikings beat the New York Jets, 23–17, in a game that was played in London, England. Minnesota showed off why their defense is among the best in the NFL. After taking an early 3–0 lead, Vikings linebacker Andrew Van Ginkel intercepted a pass and returned it for a touchdown to extend the lead to 10–0 in the first quarter. Less than a minute later, Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers was intercepted again. Through five games, the Vikings have forced 13 turnovers.

The stateside games played that day included an Arizona Cardinals 24–23 upset win over the 49ers and a thrilling 41–38 overtime win by the Baltimore Ravens over the Cincinnati Bengals.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Marcus Caldeira

AGE: 19 SPORT: SOCCER

TEAM: WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

Playing history When I was 3, my mom put me in a local soccer club. From there, I moved to other clubs and through a couple of academies. I ended up at Sigma FC, which has a related pro team, Forge FC. When I was 16, I signed my first professional/development contract with Forge FC. I had been with them for two years when West Virginia contacted me.

Healthy habits One thing I do to take care of myself is meditate for five to 10 minutes a day. I also make sure I fuel myself properly. If you don't get enough water or food, you can see it in your productivity. Sleep is also a necessity.



Role model My family is Portuguese, so Cristiano Ronaldo was my idol growing up. I always watched his highlights and tried to be exactly like him, from his haircut to the boots he wore.

Best games I have two big accomplishments. One was my professional debut in the Canadian Premier League. The other is our team's win last year against Marshall. It was the battle of the two biggest West Virginia sides, both of us were undefeated, and I ended up scoring a hat trick (three goals). Hearing your name called after a goal is something I wish everyone could experience.

Big plans Last year, I was drafted by Minnesota United in the MLS SuperDraft. Playing in a game and getting paid to do it is a future goal. My current one is to win a national championship.

His advice Focus on things you can control, make sure whatever you're doing is aligned to your goal, and understand that adversity is going to happen.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Katelyn Weber**

Team: **Kealing C "Triangles" (Ultimate Frisbee)**

"Coach Weber treats each of us so well. She helps us improve our skills with fun drills and extra clarification. One time, I was struggling with a specific way to throw a Frisbee, and to show me how to hold my arm, she put her phone between my elbow and my side to make sure I did it correctly. The cool thing was, it worked! During games, she cheers us on and gives us advice on the sidelines. She's one of the nicest people I've ever met." Margo, 13, Texas



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.



A passion for democracy

Teenagers participating in a national civics competition are the subject of a new four-part documentary series.

Citizen Nation, a new four-part documentary series airing on PBS, follows groups of teens from Nevada, Virginia, West Virginia, and other states as they prepare for and participate in a national competition called We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. We the People tests students' knowledge about constitutional democracy, history, and civics (the rights and duties of citizens) in a format that is modeled after government hearings.

We the People is run by the Center for Civic Education, a group focused on helping

young people understand the basis of the US government and their role in it as citizens. To be part of the competition, students take a special class at school where they learn about and discuss issues and write speeches. In state-level and national competitions, they deliver those speeches and also have to answer questions from a panel of adult judges.

Some of the schools in the series were chosen because of their past We the People success, while others were underdogs. Director Singeli Agnew told *The Week Junior* she hoped that following a

variety of kids and their teachers "would tell us different things about this country."

One student in *Citizen Nation* is Elizabeth Fakoya from Las Vegas, Nevada. She told *The Week Junior* that being part of We the People required "very in-depth" work. She said one big thing she learned was "having confidence in my opinions while having respect for others."

Agnew hopes viewers are inspired by Fakoya and the other students, who "think deeply about what it means to be a citizen." She also wants people to realize that learning about the history of democracy is worthwhile. "I hope we can make civics cool again," she said.

DID YOU KNOW?
The original US Constitution is on display at the National Archives in Washington, DC.

3 young leaders

Jaylen Smith

At age 18, he was elected mayor of Earle, Arkansas, in 2022. The rural city has a population of 1,831. In high school, he had been a member of the student government association.



Quentin Colón Roosevelt

In 2023, the 18-year-old great-great-great-grandson of US President Theodore Roosevelt won a local election for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in Washington, DC. He became the area's youngest elected official.



Lilian Hale

On her 18th birthday this year, the Washington teen became the youngest state representative ever. She was sworn in as a temporary fill-in for her stepfather, a Marine Corps reservist who went on active duty.





ON THE AIR
National Public Radio
broadcast its first
program in 1971.

NPR's contest

The Student Podcast Challenge

Podcasts by kids are honored

For the past six years, National Public Radio (NPR) has run the Student Podcast Challenge, a contest for kids across the country. Previously, it had been open to fifth through 12th graders, but this year it was expanded to include fourth graders. Nearly 2,000 entries were submitted, and winners in the fourth grade, middle school, and high school contests were recently announced.

To be considered for the contest, a podcast had to be three to eight minutes long and have the support of a teacher or sponsor. A panel of judges from NPR's education team evaluated the entries on creativity and technical execution. The grand prize winner in each age group is being featured on NPR platforms.

The judges named five fourth-grade winners, which included a podcast about a triumphant

immigration story and one about the joy of jumping on a trampoline. In the middle school category, the grand prize went to *Lopez the Rainbow Tailed Service Dog* by Lilla Lanivich, age 14, of Michigan. In her podcast, she shares how her dog, Lopez, has helped her manage multiple chronic illnesses. Among the middle school finalists were *Branded a Teen*, which questions stereotypes about adolescence, and *The Important Structures of Medieval Europe*, which explores world history.

The high school grand prize winner was *A Relationship Behind Bars* by Eden Alonso-Rivera, age 16, also of Michigan. In it, she opens up about exchanging letters with her father in prison. One high school finalist was *Paper Dolls*, a podcast about fashion. To find out more about some of the finalists, go to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-StudentPodcasts.



Lopez



READER RECOMMENDS



Inside Out 2 PG (Disney+)

"This movie came out in June and is already a favorite that I can relate to a lot. It is the sequel to *Inside Out*, which was about Riley, a young girl, and the emotions in her mind: Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust, and Sadness. In the sequel, Riley is a teen and there are new emotions in her head like Anxiety (my favorite!), Embarrassment, Envy, and Ennui (boredom). Anxiety wants to take over Headquarters and sends Joy and the other original emotions to a vault in the back of Riley's mind. They have to get back to Headquarters to stop Anxiety and restore Riley's sense of self." Che'maris, 13, Connecticut

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Gremlins: The Wild Batch (Max)

This animated series is set in 1920s China and is a prequel to popular horror-comedy films from the 1980s. In the new second season, heroes Sam, Gizmo, and Elle travel from Shanghai to the American West to track down a new batch of evil Mogwai creatures.



Curses! (Apple TV+)

The Vanderhoven family is cursed because their ancestors stole ancient artifacts. In season one, dad Alex was turned to stone, but his kids and wife saved him. Season two is out now and follows the family as they try to reverse the curse and solve a new mystery involving Alex.



Expedition Amazon (Disney+) (Hulu)

National Geographic teams spent two years exploring the Amazon River for this special. Experts include weather scientists doing research at the river's icy source and scientists caring for a rescued baby manatee in Colombia. It also shows efforts to protect the ecosystem.

DID YOU KNOW?

About 66% of eligible voters turned out for the 2020 Presidential election—the highest rate for any national election since 1900.



Get involved in the election

This is an exciting time to participate in our democracy!

You can make a difference in the upcoming national election—even though you're not old enough to vote. "There are lots of ways for kids to get involved," Andrea Hailey, chief executive officer of Vote.org, told *The Week Junior*. Here are some steps you can take.

Understand why elections matter

On November 5, Americans will elect the next President as well as thousands of national, state, and local leaders. "The results are going to affect kids' lives, now and later," said Hailey. After the winners take office, they will create and vote on policies in areas ranging from the cost of goods to healthcare, education, and the environment. The more you know about what's at stake, the more you can discuss the issues with family and friends and the more exciting the election will be for you. With an adult, you can research what the Republican and Democratic parties stand for as well as the positions of different candidates.

Be a vote captain

You can help family members cast their ballots by taking on a special role: vote captain. "A vote captain is a leader who encourages and supports others in their voting

journey," Hailey explained. As vote captain, you can help your family make a voting plan using the form at right. "We know that if people wait until Election Day to decide when they'll vote, something may come up to keep them from participating," said Hailey. So making a plan now can help ensure that everyone exercises their right. You can include grandparents, aunts, uncles, and older cousins and siblings in your plan too, Hailey said. Also ask if you can join relatives when they vote—research suggests that sharing this experience helps kids form lifelong voting habits themselves.



Help get out the vote!

Stay positive

One of the best parts of living in a democracy is that everyone is free to express their views. The election provides an opportunity to practice listening to other opinions, being respectful of differences, and stating your own viewpoints clearly and calmly. "The key is to continue using your voice in the way that you best know how," Hailey said.

Make a pledge

Kids between ages 13 and 17 can pledge now at Vote.org to register to vote when they turn 18. You'll get a text reminder to register on your 18th birthday!

What is Vote.org?

VOTE
.ORG

Vote.org is a nonprofit, nonpartisan website with information about voting in all 50 states. Your family can find:

An easy way to register
Anyone age 18 or older can check to see whether they're registered to vote. If they're not, registering takes two minutes. Deadlines vary by state.

Important dates In many states, people can cast ballots during an early voting period before Election Day. Find out what the rules are for your state.

What's on the ballot Voters can get a preview of the specific races, candidates, and any special statewide or local issues that will appear on their ballot.



Make a family voting plan

You can use this form to help make your family's voting plan. After you fill it out, hang it in a prominent place, such as on your refrigerator, so family members can easily see and remember the plan. Mark your family's calendar: Election Day is Tuesday, November 5!

Vote captain: _____

Who in our family will be voting? List their names here.

Which voting method will each family member use? For instance, will they be casting their ballot by mail? Will they be voting in person?

When will each family member vote? For example, if they are voting by mail, on which day will they mail their ballot? If they are voting in person, are they voting early or on Election Day? Where is their polling place, and when will they go?

Use this space to draw a picture of your family voting.



Puzzles



Word search

Can you find all these words associated with being President? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

C I T
A S U
B
I
N
T O E P O
S K P N A T I O N C O
M N T V S P O O T O H P V T G S P E E C H
O G E N O E C R O F R I A R U E O O L S G
T T N O E L S T T F H P L R E S L L L E N
O W E I H V E R L E S U O H E T I H W L I
R L E T T K E A S T O P F W I B T C K T W
C H A C N E G I D E S K F E E A I D E S T
A O S E C R E T S E R V I C E R C T I E S
D T W L S L E M P R R E C S I D S E R N E
E S T E F E I H C N I R E D N A M M O C W

AIDES
AIR FORCE ONE
BILL

CABINET
COMMANDER IN CHIEF
DESK

ELECTION
EVENTS
FLAG
LEADER
MEETING
MOTORCADE

NATION
NEWS
OATH
OVAL OFFICE
PHOTO OPS
POLITICS

POLL
PORTRAIT
POTUS
POWERS
SEAL
SECRET SERVICE

SPEECH
TERM
USA
VETO
WEST WING
WHITE HOUSE

FOUR IN A ROW

Place four of the letters below to complete the first pair of words, in the same order in both words. Use the remaining four letters to complete the second pair of words, in the same order in both words.

A C E I N O T V

A D I D T

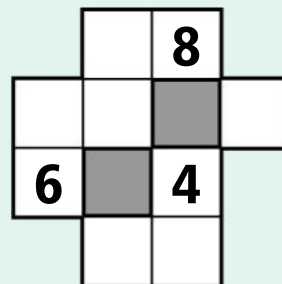
N I K M

C R Y

A R A I N

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.



FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with two words so that the second word is the same as the first word with one letter added at the start, like EIGHT and HEIGHT. The two words will not always rhyme. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

1. It's hard to predict who will win and who will _____ in our local race for state representative because the results are going to be very _____.
2. On _____ Day, each voter enters a private booth, reads the ballot, and marks his or her _____ for each office listed.
3. Although the White House has 132 rooms and 35 bathrooms, the only full-time _____ who have ever lived there have been the _____ and their First Families.

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

Spot the difference

These two pictures of Mount Rushmore appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





Now he's a track star.



Bike pro takes a train for a ride

Dawid Godziek, a thrill-seeking BMX bike rider from Poland, has accomplished the world's first bike flip on a moving train. A course was built on top of 10 train cars, and Godziek prepared for about 18 months for the feat. On the day of the attempt, he had to adjust to the wind and the speed of the train, but he successfully pulled off several tricks, including a brand-new one: a backflip down a set of stairs at the end of the train. "The whole project exceeded our wildest expectations," Godziek said. But he warned, "Don't try this at home!"

Number 1 Ebenezer Place



The world's shortest street

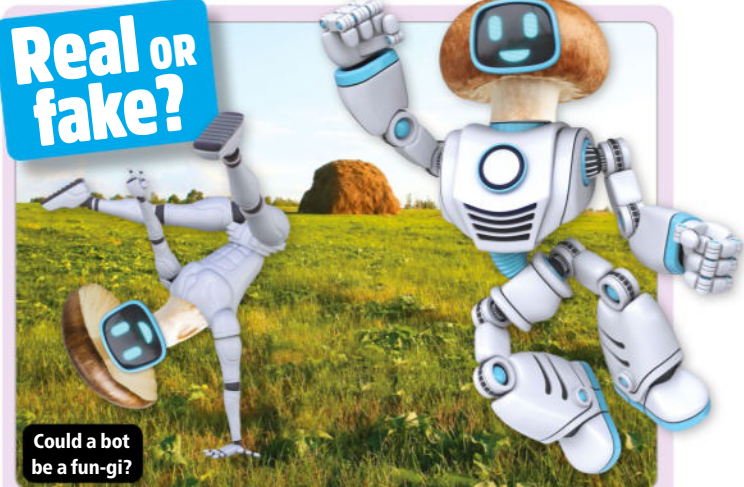
A road in Scotland has been recognized by Guinness World Records as the shortest street in the world. Ebenezer Place, in the town of Wick, is 6 feet 9 inches long and has room for one address: Number 1 Ebenezer Place. It dates back to 1883, when Alexander Sindair built Mackays Hotel at the corner of two streets. The town council told Sindair to put a street sign on the short side of the building, declaring the section in front of it a separate road. The hotel's current owner, Murray Lamont, said, "Every few minutes, we see people standing in there taking a photo."



Find your own ghost story.

Checking out the spirit realm

Call it the Spooky Decimal System. Seekers of the supernatural are booking it to libraries across the US to get ghost-hunting kits before Halloween. The kits include equipment such as a "black light" flashlight, a digital voice recorder, and a radio scanner (because some people think spirits communicate through radio waves). Patrons ages 18 and up can check out a kit for up to a week. Kaz Windness of Colorado picked one up and said she heard a name spoken through the radio scanner. "Who knows?" she said. "Maybe there's something to it."



Mushrooms control robots

Scientists have found an unusual way to make robots move — by putting mushrooms behind the controls. Researchers created two robots and grew mycelia (root-like strands of fungi) into the electronics. The scientists then shined different lights on the robots and found that they walked, rolled, or "danced" as the fungus reacted to the light. "Mushrooms don't like light," researcher Robert Shepherd explained. Is this story real, or have we planted a lie?*

*Real! The scientists said that using fungi helped the machines sense and respond to their environment. In the future, this type of robot, known as a biohybrid, could deliver nutrients to crops when it detects chemical changes in the soil.



Your turn

Editor's note

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln gave one of the most famous speeches in world history—the Gettysburg Address. In it, he referred to our democracy as a “government of the people,



by the people, for the people.” Those words are at the heart of every election held in our country, including the one coming up on November 5, and they are also the reason we created this special

Election Preview issue for you. It's packed with articles about many different aspects of this major event, including the results of our nationwide survey of kids' opinions (p14), an explainer on the Electoral College (p16), a selection of exciting races to watch (p18), and ideas for getting involved (p24). We hope the issue gives you a greater understanding of what's happening and inspires you to participate. After all, our government “of the people” includes you too!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



Remy, 12, Indiana

Freedom to read

“I made a display at my school to teach other kids about intellectual freedom and banned books. I think it's important for people to learn about intellectual freedom because taking it away impacts our education. I liked seeing people's interest in my project. I taught them things they didn't know, and they

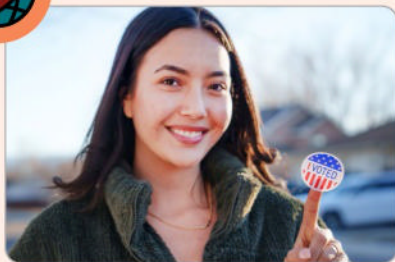
wanted to take action! A lot of people were surprised by why some of the books were banned and how many more books get banned each year. Something everyone can do right now is read more books and teach others about banned books.”

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What goes up but never comes down?
Your age



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Rock the Vote

This organization's goal is to empower young people who are age 18 or older to exercise their right to vote. It conducts voter registration drives and provides people with information about how to vote in their state. It has also developed a high school curriculum about the history of voting. Since its founding in 1990, it has helped more than 14 million people register to vote. Find out more at rockthevote.org.

ROCK THE VOTE

Apply to join Junior Council!

The Week Junior is conducting a national search for 12 students, ages 8 to 14, who want to have their voices heard about the issues and causes that matter to them. This will be our sixth session of Junior Council, and council members will meet directly with *The Week Junior* editors and mentors. There will be about six virtual workshops held from January through May 2025. A project created by council members may appear in a future issue of the magazine. To apply, go to juniorcouncil.theweekjunior.com to download the application. The deadline to enter is October 24.



THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I watched the Presidential debate. Thank you for recommending it!" **Vihaan, 9, Michigan**

"I love it when my mom picks me up from school and gives me the great news that my magazine has arrived! I can't wait to get home to read it." **Amy, 10, California**



"The pickles I made from the recipe in your magazine are really yummy and getting better by the day!" **Ozzi, 12, Colorado**



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Laura Morris**

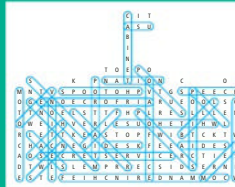
School: **German School**

"I think Ms. Laura is the kindest and sweetest teacher we have ever had. She teaches English, mathematics, and social studies and makes it all really fun. She always picks the best books to read, and she even inspired me to learn sign language. Ms. Laura always makes us feel like we are in a safe space. I am so happy that we have a chance to be with her next year."

Alicia, 10, New York

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)



Word search

Unused letters:
It took Congress
three weeks to
pick the title
"President."

Four in a row
candidate, nickname
victory, variation

Fill in the blanks
1. lose, close
2. election, selection
3. residents, presidents



Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 b) 270 **2** b) Orlando Pride **3** National Public Radio **4** True **5** c) Train **6** Jimmy Carter
7 False. It can relieve pain. **8** c) Migrate **9** c) 26th **10** a) Angel Reese **11** False. They
serve terms that last two years. **12** Guinea **13** True **14** Lester Holt **15** c) Ebenezer Place

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 How many electoral votes does a candidate need to win the US Presidency?

a) 100 b) 270 c) 538

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 Which National Women's Soccer League team has set a league record for the longest unbeaten streak?

a) NJ/NY Gotham FC
b) Orlando Pride
c) Washington Spirit

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 The Student Podcast Challenge is run by which public broadcasting network?

4 True or false? Researchers found that some dogs can remember the names of their toys after two years.

True ☐ False ☐

5 BMX rider Dawid Godziek achieved the first bike flip on top of what type of moving vehicle?

a) Boat b) Car c) Train

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 Which former President recently turned 100, making him the longest-living President in US history?

7 True or false? Mindfulness meditation is not effective at relieving pain.

True ☐ False ☐

8 Scientists taught captive-bred northern bald ibises how to do what?

a) Bathe b) Hunt c) Migrate

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐



ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.



9 Which amendment to the US Constitution lowered the voting age from 21 to 18?

a) 22nd b) 24th c) 26th

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 Who was the only player besides Caitlin Clark to receive a vote for the WNBA Rookie of the Year award?

a) Angel Reese
b) Kamilla Cardoso
c) Riquea Jackson

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 True or false? Members of the US House of Representatives serve terms that last four years.

True ☐ False ☐

12 The Nadir Crater was discovered at the bottom of the ocean off the coast of which African country?

13 True or false? The dodo is thought to be the first animal to die out because of human actions.

True ☐ False ☐

14 What is the name of the journalist who created *NBC Nightly News: Kids Edition*?

15 The world's shortest road, located in Scotland, is called what?

a) Ebenezer Drive
b) Ebenezer Lane
c) Ebenezer Place

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

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SOARING SYMBOL

Built to honor the first US President and completed in 1884, the Washington Monument stands more than 555 feet tall in the nation's capital.